

# COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF TORONTO

**50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** 

"LOOKING BACK: MOVING FORWARD"

MONDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2007

HART HOUSE

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO** 























#### **OUR MISSION**

The Community Social Planning Council of Toronto is committed to building a Civic Society: one in which diversity, equity, social and economic justice, interdependence and active citizen participation are central to all aspects of our lives - in our families, neighbourhoods, voluntary and recreational activities, at work, and in politics.

#### **CORE FUNCTIONS**

Policy Research and Analysis

Studying the social and economic effects on City residents of public policy at all levels of government and developing policy alternatives.

**Community Capacity Building** 

Strengthening the community resource base to enact essential social supports and enabling all community stakeholders to participate in decision-making processes on the social development of their communities and city.

Community Education and Advocacy

Promoting community discussion on important social and economic issues and facilitating research-based advocacy, especially for the most marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population.

Social Reporting

Conducting and facilitating local and city-wide research on social and economic conditions and the impact of a changing political environment on the quality of life for all members of the community.

#### **OUR BOARD MEMBERS**

Mario Calla - President Tam Goossen - Vice-President Linda Torney - Secretary Vera Ndaba - Treasurer Celia Denov Nicole Wall Yasmin Bhatia Ekua Asabea Blair Vera Dodic Andrew Lalonde Mary Elspeth Milosh Waheeda Rahman Rhonda Roffey Myra Wiener



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF TORONTO

"LOOKING BACK: MOVING FORWARD"

MONDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2007

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since its inception, the Social Planning Council has played a leadership role in the community sector in Toronto.

In 1957, when Toronto became a major reception centre for the sudden influx of Hungarian refugees, the Council played a significant role in coordinating the services needed by this wave of newcomers. As Toronto has changed, so has the role of the Council – supporting the growth of local social planning bodies in the growing suburbs around the old City of Toronto, identifying critical service gaps, and providing a solid research base for advocacy work not only by the Council itself, but by many local and city-wide organizations.

In 2007, the Council finds itself at the forefront of initiatives such as the "Community Social Services Campaign," showcasing the work of community social service organizations and their staff, as well as highlighting the ongoing need for public support for community infrastructure.

Over the past five decades, the work of the Council, and its predecessor organizations in Etobicoke, York, North York, East York, Scarborough, and Metro Toronto, has provided leadership and support to many of the campaigns, coalitions, and other partnerships that have worked to promote equity and a better quality of life for all Toronto residents. Through its research, policy analysis, and community mobilization, the Council has made a very real contribution to our city. Many individuals and organizations have played a part in that work, and I am pleased that we have this opportunity, on the 50th anniversary of the Council, to acknowledge its contribution to making Toronto a better place to live for all of its residents.

Our gratitude goes out to the thousands of volunteers and staff members, past and present, who, through their work on the Council, have directly contributed to the quality of life of Torontonians.

Mario J. Calla

Mario | Calla

#### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



When they first met on May 7, 1957, the founders of the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto could not have imagined what the following half century would hold for either the organization they established, or for the city that it was created to serve. From its beginnings as a service coordination body, deeply rooted in the establishment of Old Toronto, the Social Planning Council has evolved into an organization whose mission – and passion – is anchored in a commitment to reflecting the voices of a city that has become diverse in ways that were simply unimaginable fifty years ago.

Over the course of that half century, the Social Planning Council has played a leadership role in challenging the powers that be to respond to the needs of Toronto residents marginalized by poverty, race, and a host of other barriers. Thirty years later, Council reports such as "Metro Suburbs in Transition" continue to be referenced by advocates and decision-makers alike, while organizations that were incubated at the Council, such as the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, have gone on to have a vital impact on Toronto's civic society.

These changes have not always happened smoothly – or quietly. Just as any fifty-year relationship has its ups and downs, there have been challenges as the Council has adapted to the changing realities of Toronto, and its key partners at the United Way and municipal government. The Council has also undergone dramatic internal transformations, as it has wrestled with issues of accountability and responsiveness to a city that would be utterly unrecognizable to those who met at Hart House on May 7, 1957 to embark on this new venture.

While I am certain that they would be surprised by many of the changes Toronto has seen over the past fifty years, as well as by the history and work of the Council over that time, I like to think that they would join me in taking pride in the enormous contribution that the Social Planning Council has made toward economic and social justice in our city.

The hard work, dedication and sacrifice of the thousands of individuals who have served the Council and its predecessor organizations as staff, board members, volunteers, student interns, and partners, has resulted in profound and positive change for our city and its residents. The influence of the Council has extended far beyond our municipal boundaries to impact on public policy at the provincial and federal levels. As we begin the next fifty years, we do so with a legacy in which everyone associated with the Council can take great pride; one which offers a solid foundation on which to base our future endeavours.

John Campey

Sul Com



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

May 7, 2007

#### A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to the staff and management of the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto. Congratulations on half a century of excellence in serving the community!

I believe that every Ontarian has the right to fully participate in and contribute to the social and economic life of our province. It takes many hands to build strong communities. As a prosperous society that prides itself on its strength and compassion, we embrace every opportunity to be more inclusive so that we do not leave anyone behind.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize everyone who has supported this noteworthy organization. By helping Ontarians to become engaged with and connected to the community, you are helping to build a more inclusive Ontario.

Please accept my best wishes for many more years of success.

Dalton McGuinty Premier





# DAVID MILLER

#### A Message from the Mayor

It is my distinct pleasure to extend congratulations to the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto (CSPC-T) on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For the past 50 years, CSPC-T has played a significant role in creating a society where the people of our city are equal participants in the sharing of its resources.

Committed to diversity, equality, social and economic justice and active citizen participation in the growth, development and success of our city, CSPC-T has contributed tremendously to the socio-economic sustainability of Toronto.

Toronto is a great city with enormous spirit. Our city is known for the ability of its people to make a difference, and I am proud of CSPC-T's involvement in encouraging, promoting and successfully building a fair, strong and cohesive society.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I wish you a wonderful and memorable anniversary celebration.

Yours truly,

**Mayor David Miller** 



Frances Lankin
President & Chief Executive Officer

April 12, 2007

Dear Mario & John

Congratulations on your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! What a milestone for the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto—50 years of social planning, community development, policy analysis and research, advocacy, and service coordination.

For five decades, you have provided vital service to Toronto. We congratulate you on your renewed energy and strategic direction, and we appreciate your continued advocacy and participation on essential public policy issues that affect Torontonians' daily lives. You are absolutely instrumental in helping to build a better, stronger city for us all.

In 2006, United Way marked its own milestone—50 years of working to create lasting change in the lives of Torontonians. Through our strategic partnerships and network of 200 health and social services agencies such as yours, we are determined to continue evolving into a impact organization that focuses on strengthening communities—as you well know from your partnership in our Strong Neighbourhood strategy and the work you are doing in the priority neighbourhood area of Weston-Mt. Dennis. We are excited to partner with you on this initiative, and we look forward to what the future has to bring.

On behalf of United Way of Greater Toronto, I want to thank your staff, board, committee members and volunteers for your tremendous commitment and outstanding contribution to the well-being of Toronto, and wish you continued success.

Sincerely

Frances Lankin

26 Wellington St E 11th Floor Toronto ON M5E 1W9 Tel 416 777 2001 Fax 416 777 0962 unitedwaytoronto.com

#### "LOOKING BACK: MOVING FORWARD"

### SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

**DEBATE ROOM, HART HOUSE** 

SYMPOSIUM SPONSORED BY: Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Population and Public Health

8:45 a.m. Registration

9:20 a.m. Welcome/History

9:45 a.m. Introduction –1957 to mid 1970s

9:50 a.m. Panel 1 – Developing Community Service Capacities in Metropolitan Toronto

11:00 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Introduction – mid 1970s to 1990

11:20 a.m. Panel 2 – Policy Research and Advocacy

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Introduction – 1990 to present

1:35 p.m. Panel 3 – Civic Mobilization Across Sectors

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Introduction – Moving Forward

3:05 p.m. Panel 4 – Moving Forward

4:15 p.m. Conclusion



#### SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

WELCOME/HISTORY

Susan McGrath

Director, Centre for Refugee Studies, School of Social Work, York University

Past President, Social Planning Council 1992 - 1994

Panel 1 Developing Community Service Capacities in Metropolitan Toronto (1957 to mid 1970s)

INTRODUCTION

Marvyn Novick

Professor Emeritus, Ryerson University

Former Senior Program Director, Social Planning Council

**MODERATOR** 

Dale Shuttleworth

Executive Director, The Training Renewal Foundation Past President, Social Planning Council 1979 – 1981

**PANELISTS** 

**Anne Barstow** 

Past President, Social Planning Council 1969 – 1974

**Bruce Kidd** 

Dean, Faculty of Physical Education & Health, University of Toronto

Former Board Member, Social Planning Council

Charlotte Maher

Board Member, Carewatch

Former Coordinator, Social Planning Council

Don Bellamy

Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto

Jim Lemon

Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto

Former Board Member, Social Planning Council 1976 - 1992

#### Panel 2 Policy Research and Advocacy (mid 1970s to 1990)

INTRODUCTION

Marvyn Novick

**MODERATOR** 

Christa Freiler

Director of Research, Canadian Education Association Former Program Director, Social Planning Council

**PANELISTS** 

Audi Dharmalingam

Board Member, Urban Alliance on Race Relations

Former Executive Director, University Settlement Recreation Centre

Brigitte Kitchen

Professor, School of Social Work, York University

Former Board Member, Social Planning Council 1988 – 1994



**Eilert Frerichs** 

Past President, Social Planning Council 1982 – 1983

Leon Muszynski

Director, Camp Arowhon

Former Program Director, Social Planning Council

Leslie Wright

**Executive Director, Agora Foundation** 

Former Executive Director, East York Community Development Council

#### Panel 3 Civic Mobilization Across Sectors (1990 to present)

INTRODUCTION Marvyn Novick

MODERATOR Peter Clutterbuck

Community Planning Consultant, Social Planning Network of Ontario

Former Executive Director, Social Planning Council

PANELISTS Don Richmond

Former Commissioner of Community Services, Municipality of Metro Toronto

Linda Torney

Board Member, CSPC-T

Past President, Toronto & York Region Labour Council

Margaret Hancock

Warden, Hart House, University of Toronto

Past President, Social Planning Council 1995 - 1997

Tam Goossen

Vice President, CSPC-T Board of Directors Former Trustee, Toronto Board of Education

#### Panel 4 Moving Forward

INTRODUCTION/

Mario Calla

**MODERATOR** 

President, CSPC-T Board of Directors

**Executive Director, COSTI** 

**PANELISTS** 

**Amanuel Melles** 

Director, Organizational Capacity Building, United Way of Greater Toronto

Grace-Edward Galabuzi

Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and School of Public Administration,

Ryerson University

John Cartwright

President, Toronto & York Region Labour Council

Shirley Hoy

City Manager, City of Toronto

Tonika Morgan

Project Manager, Women Moving Forward, Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre



### **GALA DINNER**

#### AGENDA GREAT HALL, HART HOUSE

6:00 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. Welcome

Mario Calla, President

CSPC-T

7:10 p.m. Master of Ceremonies

Jian Ghomeshi

7:20 p.m. Greetings from the Province

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education

7:25 p.m. Greetings from United Way

Waseem Syed, Vice-President, Community Investment,

**United Way of Greater Toronto** 

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Greetings and comments

Former Mayors and Metro Chairmen

8:30 p.m. Presentation

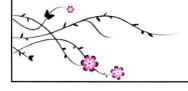
John Campey, Executive Director

CSPC-T

Guest Speaker Mayor David Miller

**Closing Remarks** 

Mario Calla



#### FRIENDS AND FAMILY TABLE SPONSORS

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John Campey

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#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CSPC-T

Established officially in 1937, the Toronto Welfare Council was the earliest incarnation of the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, with its roots in community service agencies dating even further back to 1918. The Welfare Council provided staff assistance on matters of social planning to the Community Chest, and in 1944, joined the Chest in order to establish a stable funding base. The Council produced the famed "Red Book," or The Cost of Living Study, a benchmark publication that outlined shortfalls in levels of relief and working wages, and was mainly used by labour councils and progressive organizations. The book caused controversy among the influential business leaders of the time, who demanded that the Chest halt publication of the study. The book was pulled and Bessie Touzel, the Council's Executive Secretary, subsequently resigned. In 1949, the Chest approved the release of a modified version, Guide to Family Spending in Toronto. However, the research methodology, a market basket approach, became firmly established in the field of income security.

Tensions were brewing throughout the early 50's. The Community Chest increasingly employed the Council as an allocations conduit for recommending admissions of new agencies or expansions of existing programs and services. The Chest also continually set funding campaign goals lower than agency needs, exacerbating the situation. This effectively caused strained relationships between the Council and other agencies in an era of tight funding, with huge increases in demand for service being met with little or no funding.

In 1955, the demands for service, most notably from the suburbs, led the Council to propose a needs and resources study to the Chest, examining issues such as immigrants, older people, disabled people, housing, unmarried mothers and adoption, health care and unemployment assistance. The work required additional staff, and the Chest turned down the study, suggesting that other groups could carry out this kind of work. The Council became increasingly concerned that the Chest did not comprehend the scope of social planning on this level, and began to move towards independence. The United Community Fund was established as a compromise to include a Social Planning Council, but the Council still pursued independence.

A committee to oversee the move to independence was chaired by Wallace McCutcheon, one of the most influential businessmen of the time. The operational plans were approved by the United Community Fund, and on May 7, 1957, at a dinner meeting in the Great Hall at Hart House, the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto was formally established. Florence Philpott was named its first Executive Director and Arthur Pigott was named Assistant to the President of the Board.

In the 1960's, the Council focused on research in order to assess its directions and policies. The first Research Directors, John Gandy and Wilson Head, were influential in laying the groundwork for this developmental stage of the Council. The needs and resources study first proposed in 1955 came to fruition during this time. The study was initiated in 1961 and completed in 1963, identifying for the first time in Toronto the strengths and weaknesses of health and welfare services, and the changing needs and demographics of its communities. The Council oversaw a number of specific departments, and also spawned several other key organizations in the city, including the Volunteer Bureau.

However, new social movements of the late 60s strongly challenged the Council's structures and agenda. Poverty organizations criticized the Council for not addressing the priorities of those most in need. There were calls for more representation of grassroots community groups and for people in poverty on the Board of Directors.

This challenge came to a head in the early 70's, when grassroots community movements formed a coalition and organized to change the direction of the Council and make it more responsive to the community. The Annual Meetings of 1970 and 1971 marked a watershed in the Council's history. In 1971, more than 1500 members attended, and a vociferous debate over the direction of the Council ensued. Two slates of directors were presented, one reflecting the established membership of the Board. The second slate proposed by the reformers included representation from anti-poverty groups and community activists.

Twelve members of the reform slate were elected to the Board, and their concerns came to be reflected in the work of the Council. By 1972 the Council had successfully restructured itself to begin work on a wider social development agenda with community organizations and activists. Instead of specialized departments dealing each with one sector of service, the Council



- continued -

would now use its professional staff in accordance with the needs and/or problems emerging in the community. This broader interpretation of social planning manifested itself effectively throughout the 70's, and the values of social development and empowerment still inform the work of the CSPC-T.

By the 80's, the Council was increasingly pressured in its role as watchdog on the City's social policies and activities. City politicians began to publicly question their support for an organization that could be uniquely critical of their decision-making. Other social planning agencies required an increase in support from the Council as they matured. Ed Pennington, Executive Director (1976-1987), wrote in the 1985 Annual Report: "It is a tough test to stand up to public scrutiny day after day. There is no other agency in Metro under that kind of pressure. There is no other agency that passes the test so consistently."

Key Council publications from the mid 1980's such as Metro's Suburbs in Transition and Neighbourhoods Under Stress pointed out the critical need for investment in community infrastructure, particularly in the inner suburban neighbourhoods undergoing dramatic change. These landmark reports challenged decision-makers at the time, and promoted a real dialogue on the changing nature of the city – identifying critical service gaps that continue to resonate with current initiatives such as the Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force.

A 1986 report on the roles of social planning councils in Metro Toronto stressed the need for an independent social planning council, and set in motion a cost-sharing agreement by Metro and the United Way to fund the Council. This recognition and stability was an important achievement for the organization.

Throughout the 80's, the collaborative nature of the Council increased, as they moved forward on major work with the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, the Child Poverty Action Group, the Affordable Housing Action Group, and many more. By 1988, this trend ignited another process of reevaluation and planning, resulting in a refined mission to emphasize a healthy community, social and economic equity, and community empowerment.

The 90's provided more challenges as an economic recession and devolution policies of provincial and federal governments resulted in severe cutbacks in municipal and community services. The Council assumed a major leadership role in establishing advocacy coalitions with community groups and labour such as the Metro Network for Social Justice, Community Voices of Support, and the Toronto Civic Action Network. As well, The Council provided research and policy analysis support on important initiatives such as Workfare Watch and Paying for Canada.

As the provincial government moved to amalgamate Toronto in 1997, the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto and its local planning organization partners, the East York Community Development Council, Etobicoke Social Development Council, North York Inter-Agency and Community Council and the City of York Community Social Planning Council and Human Services of Scarborough, started discussions about their own transformation for the new Toronto. They merged into a unified structure under the new name of Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, which was officially incorporated on January 1, 1998, the same date as the new City of Toronto itself.

In an era of dramatic funding cutbacks to both the organization, and the social services sector as a whole, amalgamation provided a unique challenge to the CSPC-T. The consolidation of these groups was facilitated by a lengthy and thorough process that included a redevelopment of the CSPC-T's vision, mission, goals and strategic planning; as well as its access and equity policies, and its by-laws and governance. The CSPC-T concentrated its resources on four core functions: policy research and analysis, community capacity building, community education and advocacy, and social reporting.

The years after amalgamation were challenging ones for the Council, as it wrestled with significant downsizing, and a changing institutional and demographic landscape in the City. Over the past five years, the Council has focused on the rebuilding of relationships and internal capacity in order to strengthen and support the social services sector in Toronto. With renewed support from the United Way and the City of Toronto, the CSPC-T's current strategic direction (2003-2007) renewed the organization's commitment to action-based research and policy analysis, focusing on the social service sector in Toronto, the changing nature of work and income in the city, and the social and economic inclusion of newcomers and racialized communities.

Today, the CSPC-T is in a strong position to carry on its mission of building a Civic Society: one in which diversity, equity, social and economic justice, interdependence and active citizen participation are central to all aspects of our lives.



#### THANK YOU

#### **Organizing Committee**

Chair: Mary El Milosh, CSPC-T Board Member

John Campey, Executive Director, CSPC-T

Peter Clutterbuck, Community Planning Consultant, Social Planning Network of Ontario

Christa Freiler, Director of Research, Canadian Education Association

Luin Goldring, Assistant Professor of Sociology, York University

Andrew Lalonde, CSPC-T Board Member

Bea Levis, Former CSPC-T Board Member

Charlotte Maher, Carewatch, Board Member

Susan McGrath, Director, Centre for Refugee Studies, School of Social Work University of Toronto

Mary Micallef, Program Support, CSPC-T

Marvyn Novick, Professor Emeritus, Ryerson University

Arshia Raafat, Development Officer, CSPC-T

Waheeda Rahman, CSPC-T Board Member

Maria Serrano, Director of Operations, CSPC-T

#### Special Thanks to our Resource People for the day:

Marilyn Ashby

**David Thornley** 

**David Priebe** 

**Bruce Schwartzentruber** 

Julie Mathien

**David Wolfe** 

Celia Denov

Melodie Mayson

Armine Yalnizyan

**Andy Mitchell** 

Paula DeCoito

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Thank you to our Symposium Sponsor: Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Population and Public Health



## STRONG, ACTIVE, ESSENTIAL

Over a century ago working men and women came together in Toronto to win the right to have a union. In 1872 thousands marched to demand freedom for printers who were jailed for the crime of striking for the 8-hour day. They were released, laws were changed, and from that time we have built a city - and a labour movement - to be proud of.

Today hundreds of thousands of women and men are union members in Toronto. We work in every kind of occupation. Union members deliver clean water and healthy food, build houses and airplanes, care for the sick, teach children and welcome tourists. From production industries to running our transit, to staffing the CN tower, we make this city work.

Since the very beginning, our unions have fought for social justice, so that the wealth we create can be enjoyed by everyone. The key social programs that working families depend on - from public education to healthcare - are a product of our efforts. So too are decent wages, safety standards, and employment security. Together with community activists, we have struggled relentlessly against poverty and discrimination. We are proud of our achievements.

There are still many challenges ahead. We need to protect our medicare system from those who would put profit before public health. Our schools need fair funding so that every student can have the opportunity to succeed. Public services need to be guarded against the forces of privatization. Affordable housing needs to be built, and our air and water made clean again. The task of building a just society is never completed. A strong labour movement will always be needed to ensure that the interests of working people are respected.

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council is the central body speaking on behalf of working people in Canada's largest urban centre. With 175 affiliated local unions, Labour Council has a rich history of leadership in a wide variety of issues. We have created partnerships for services delivered through Labour Community Services and the Labour Education Centre. We have created alliances with others who value social justice. And we organize the strength of people from all walks of life to build better communities. Labour Council — a strong, active and essential voice for working people.



www.labourcouncil.ca

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Congratulations to the Community Social Planning Council on your first 50 years!



Urban Alliance on Race Relations



Congratulations CSPC on Fifty Years of Community Leadership!







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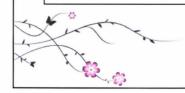


## **Happy Birthday, CSPC-T!**

**Congratulations on 50 years** 

From the employees of CUPE Local 1777











A TURNING POINT FOR WOMEN





Community Social Planning Council of Toronto

From your friends at YWCA Toronto

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BOOK





